

Title V Block Grant: Maternal and Child Health

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Title V Block Grant?

The Title V Block Grant is also known as the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant. It is a grant from the federal government that provides approximately \$12 million to Louisiana to support programs to improve the health of women, children, adolescents, and families throughout Louisiana. In order to receive the grant, the state is also required to contribute “matching funds.” Louisiana provides an additional \$3 for every \$4 the federal government awards. Submission of a yearly application and annual report is required. In addition, state Title V programs are required to conduct a statewide, comprehensive Needs Assessment every five years.

What does the MCH Title V Block Grant support in Louisiana?

The Title V MCH Block Grant supports programs and activities around the state to promote the health and well-being of women of child-bearing age, pregnant women, infants, children, teens and children and youth with special health care needs. The Title V MCH grant in Louisiana funds health services, health education and promotion, monitoring and evaluation, professional training, and policy development.

Who can apply for the MCH Title V Block Grant?

Every state has a division in their health system that applies for this grant. In Louisiana, the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) – Office of Public Health (OPH) – Bureau of Family Health (BFH) and the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Programs apply for the grant.

Why are the Maternal and Child Health Programs supported by Title V so important?

MCH services are important because they help identify and address the health needs of women of child-bearing age, pregnant women, infants, children, teens, and children and youth with special health care needs.

How does the state determine its priorities?

Every 5 years, the state is required to conduct a statewide Needs Assessment. This year begins a new five year reporting cycle which includes the process of identifying the needs and desired health outcomes for the state’s MCH population. This year is also unique because the grant application was transformed at the federal level with more emphasis on performance and accountability. Based on the findings of this year’s Needs Assessment, the state has identified priorities to comprehensively address the needs of the MCH population which will guide the use of the funds in the state. National Performance measures were selected and must be reported on annually over the next 5 years.

How much funding is being applied for in 2016?

The state is applying for approximately \$11.9 million in Title V federal funding for 2016.

How can I share my ideas, comments and feedback?

Feedback, ideas and comments are welcomed. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TitleVLA2015> with your input.

About the Louisiana Agencies that Administer the Title V Block Grant

About the Bureau of Family Health (BFH)

The Bureau of Family Health (BFH) of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), Office of Public Health (OPH) oversees programs that work to assure that pregnant women, women of childbearing age, infants, children, youth and families in Louisiana have access to high quality primary care and preventive healthcare.

The BFH works through a team structure to promote optimal health through:

- **Provision of reliable data** to monitor health & well-being, guide programs, and inform public policy
- **Preventive and educational services** that are grounded in best practices and evidence to promote optimal health and well-being
- **Policy and educational initiatives** to improve access to medical, behavioral health and supportive services, and to improve community health
- **Partnerships** with communities, government, and academia to advance common goals

About the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program (CYSHCN)

Title V Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Programs of DHH-OPH, work to assure that CYSHCN have access to services designed to minimize their disabilities and maximize their probability of enjoying an independent and self-sufficient life.

The CYSHCN works through the efforts of four programs to provide:

- **Newborn screening, diagnosis, and management** for certain genetic conditions and hearing loss
- **Birth defects** monitoring and prevention education
- **Lead** screening, case management, and environmental investigations
- **Subspecialty clinics and care coordination** services for CYSHCN
- **Helping primary care physicians** to provide coordinated, family centered care for CYSHCN

Louisiana's Priority Needs

The Priority Needs listed below were decided through a process that started with the 2014-2015 Louisiana Title V Block Grant Needs Assessment. The Needs Assessment included both quantitative (numbers) and qualitative (conversations) data. Maternal and Child Health data and indicators were analyzed, scored and ranked at the state and regional levels. The quantitative analysis provided guidance for the conversations (focus groups) that were then held in each of the 9 regions of the state. These findings were then summarized and presented by BFH and CYSHCN agency leadership to MCH stakeholders. Facilitated discussions among agency staff and MCH stakeholders informed the Priority Needs.

Louisiana's Priority Needs are listed below:

- Ensure high performing essential MCH screening and surveillance systems.
- Improve access to and quality of primary care, reproductive health, and specialty clinical services including care coordination.
- Improve social and behavioral health supports, with a focus on child and family well-being and resiliency.
- Improve the ability of care systems to serve and support children, adolescents and CYSHCN through transitions.
- Bolster local level capacity to promote and protect health and well-being of children, caregivers, and families.
- Advance understanding of drivers of disparities in MCH and CYSHCN outcomes and boldly work toward equity.
- Actively and meaningfully engage youth and families, building local-level leaders across the state.

Louisiana's Performance Measures

One of the most important changes with the Title V Block Grant is that states will now have to develop very specific action plans around certain National Performance Measures (NPM) and State Performance Measures (SPM). These plans will be developed over the next year. Below is an overview of the performance measures that Louisiana's Title V MCH Block Grant will be expected to improve.

National Performance Measures (NPM)

There are 15 National Performance Measures (NPM) to choose from, and states are required to select 8. States are required to select at least one NPM for each of the MCH "domains" listed below:

Women/Maternal Health:

- Increase the percent of women with a past year preventive medical visit (NPM 1)

Perinatal/Infant Health:

- Increase the percent of infants who are ever breastfed and the percent of infants breastfed exclusively through 6 months (NPM 4)
- Increase the percent of infants placed to sleep on their backs (NPM 5)

Child Health:

- Increase the percent of children ages 10-71 months, receiving a developmental screening using a parent-completed screening tool (NPM 6)

Adolescent Health:

- Increase the percent of adolescents, age 12-17, with a preventive medical visit in the past year (NPM 10)

Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs:

- Increase the percent of children with and without special health care needs having a medical home (NPM 11)
- Increase the percent of adolescents with and without special health care needs who received services necessary to make transitions to adult health care (NPM 12)

Life Course/Cross-Cutting:

- Increase the percent of children ages 0-17 who are adequately insured (NPM 15)

State Performance Measures (SPM)

States can set up to 5 additional performance measures. Louisiana's Priority Needs (described on pages 2-3) highlight some important areas where more work is needed beyond the NPMs. Over the next year, the BFH and CYSHCN Programs will select state performance measures unique to Louisiana's needs.

What does the Title V Block Grant support in Louisiana?

Over the next year, the BFH and CYSHCN Programs will be working together to develop action plans based on the National Performance Measures (NPMs) and State Performance Measures (SPMs) and the Priority Needs. Many of the programs and activities that the Block Grant currently support will continue, but some of them may be changed or strengthened to support the goals of the National Performance Measures. Below is a summary of some current programs and activities.

Data to Support Action

The BFH and CYSHCN programs collect, link, analyze, and interpret data related to the health of women, children, and families to:

- Monitor health and well-being among Louisiana's women, children, and families
- Guide program planning and evaluation
- Inform health and other public policy initiatives
- Evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of health services
- Support public health research
- Translate objective data to inform actions

Activities and projects include:

- *MCH Mortality Monitoring and Review:* At both the state and regional levels, BFH identifies and reviews unexpected deaths of pregnant and postpartum women, fetal/infants, and children to identify risk factors and prevention opportunities.
- *Public Health Monitoring with Follow-Up:* Active systems are in place to identify and monitor the women's experiences before, during, and after pregnancy (Louisiana Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System; Louisiana Birth Defects Monitoring Network); newborn hearing screening and timely referral to services (Louisiana Early Hearing Detection and Intervention). Data are used to inform policies, program and prevention activities, and to provide links to resources.
- *Data Linkage and Analysis:* Epidemiologists analyze and interpret data to monitor health and assist with program planning, evaluation, and policy development. Data sources include: Vital Records (births and deaths), Medicaid, WIC, hospital discharge, Newborn Screening, Birth Defects, STD/HIV, as well as information about communities such as from the U.S. Census.
- *Data Translation:* Fact sheets, issue briefs, reports, and presentations are created to highlight health areas of concern; and special analyses are completed upon request. These can be accessed at www.PartnersForHealthyBabies.org/provider/data

Health Education and Promotion

The BFH and CYSHCN programs provide health communication, education, and promotion to improve health outcomes by:

- Providing links to information and resources through help lines and websites
- Providing educational activities founded in best practices and theory
- Identifying community and system-level issues to improve health outcomes
- Facilitating community and system-level actions
- Advancing programs towards ongoing innovation

Activities and projects include:

- *Public Information Campaigns:* BFH coordinates statewide social marketing campaigns to promote healthy behaviors to reduce infant mortality. These efforts include promoting the toll-free helpline (1-800-251-BABY(2229)) and supporting websites (PartnersForHealthyBabies.org and AliadosParaBebesSanos.org); safe sleep education and resources; and links to resources from partner agencies like text4baby.
- *Community Action Groups:* Throughout Louisiana, community partners are actively working with BFH to address maternal and child health issues. In Acadia, Vermillion, and Lafayette parishes, the Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health (Project LAUNCH) group is working to ensure all children ages 0-8 reach social, emotional, behavioral, physical, and cognitive milestones. Across the state, nine Regional MCH Coordinators lead, develop, and maintain active relationships with community partners to address prevention measures for the leading causes of fetal, infant, and child deaths in their regions. The BFH Reproductive Health Program (RHP) also has an active Reproductive Health Advisory Board that helps inform strategies to improve the quality and availability of services. BFH is working to set up Community Cafés around the state to hear directly from people around the state how well our services are meeting their needs.
- *Health Education and Prevention:* Title V supports educational efforts to improve the health of Louisiana children, including the Louisiana Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, teen pregnancy prevention, and sexual violence prevention.

Clinical and Supportive Health Services

The BFH and CYSHCN programs provide health services to the community to improve health outcomes by:

- Providing quality clinical services
- Providing supportive educational activities founded in best practices and theory
- Linking people to resources

Clinical Health Services

Activities and projects include:

- *Preventive Health Services:* General and specialized clinical services are supported through Parish Health Units (PHU) and contracted sites. BFH's Reproductive Health Program (RHP) offers comprehensive reproductive health services to women, men, and adolescents.
- *Specialized Clinical Services:* Children's Special Health Services (CSHS) provides health care, care coordination, and family support for children with disabling conditions who meet medical and financial requirements. CSHS also supports some private clinics for these children to provide more comprehensive, coordinated care. Genetics Clinics are available to children diagnosed with a metabolic or other inherited condition and Sickle Cell Clinics refer children with sickle cell disease to a hematologist and link these patients to resources to improve access to the necessary services such as education, care coordination and transportation.
- *Screenings:* The Genetics program helps ensure that children are screened for certain diseases at birth and receive appropriate treatment as needed. For the list of conditions and disorders, please visit <http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/485>.

Supportive Health Services

Activities and projects include:

- *Home Visiting Programs:* BFH implements the evidence-based home visitation program. Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is offered statewide and Parents as Teachers (PAT) is in select parishes in the Shreveport and Monroe regions. NFP pairs registered nurses with first time, low incomes mothers before 28 weeks of pregnancy, and families receive ongoing intensive home visitation services until the child's 2nd birthday. PAT pairs specially trained parent educators with low income pregnant women, and families with young children. Families receive services in their homes and in community group sessions from pregnancy through kindergarten.
- *Behavioral Health:* BFH supports limited perinatal and infant mental health services, including assessment and treatment for perinatal depression, grief and loss, and crisis intervention for children and families who have experienced violence and trauma.
- *Family Centered Care:* CSHS works with Families Helping Families to ensure that care of CYSHCN is family-centered by providing parent liaisons for each CSHS regional clinic. Parent liaisons are parents of CYSHCN who are trained to support other parents by providing links to needed resources and teaching self-advocacy skills, and they also advocate for CYSHCN in the community at events and on advisory boards.
- *Care Coordination:* In CSHS clinics, a team of providers including physicians, nurses, social workers, parent liaisons, nutritionists, and audiologists work together to ensure that care is comprehensive and coordinated. CSHS also provides transportation to medical appointments for CYSHCN in CSHS clinics when other transportation is not available. The BFH Reproductive Health Program provides education and information about abortion and abortion alternatives through a helpline and website – www.pregnancyinfo.la.gov.

Professional Training

The BFH and CYSHCN programs provide training to healthcare and public health professionals to improve health outcomes by:

- Providing educational activities founded in best practices and theory
- Identifying community and system-level issues to improve health outcomes
- Advancing programs towards ongoing innovation

Activities and projects include:

- *Professional Education Trainings and Webinars:* The programs work with health professionals, medical schools, physician offices, other public health programs, and professional and community organizations to improve and coordinate care around maternal and child health issues. Training topics include: improving the identification of CYSHCN in pediatric practices; care coordination for primary care providers for children with special health care needs; caring for CYSHCN in the medical home; community nursing; childhood lead poisoning prevention; carbon monoxide prevention; prevention of perinatally transmitted infectious diseases (HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B); nutrition; breastfeeding; screening for behavioral health and domestic violence; resource information workshops; infant mental health; investigation of child deaths; and health and safety training for Child Care Health Consultants (CCHCs).
- *Practicum Opportunities:* LSU, Tulane, UNO, Xavier, and Dillard University students are provided opportunities to gain public health experience working on various projects and activities throughout BFH and CYSHCN.

Coordination, Policy and Program Development

The BFH and CYSHCN programs develop clinical and administrative policies to advance or protect the health of children, both within and outside of DHH.

Activities and projects include:

- *Coordination:* There are several advisory boards and councils charged to provide expert and consumer oversight and input related to specific programs and issues. In some cases, Title V programs serve as a member of a board or council, in other cases, the programs seek input from these groups. These include the: Early Care and Education (ECE) Advisory Council; Louisiana Commission on Perinatal Care and Prevention of Infant Mortality; Reproductive Health Advisory Board; the Behavioral Health Planning Council; the Developmental Disabilities Council; Interagency Coordinating Council (EarlySteps); Young Child Wellness Council; Medicaid, and others.
- *Policies:* BFH and CYSHCN work to ensure that quality, coordinated, comprehensive, family-centered health services are available for people who need them. This includes providing input on Medicaid policy related to access to services and resources; breastfeeding friendly practices in hospitals, workplaces, and childcare; obesity prevention policies and practices in child care; and exploring policies to increase access to programs and services for all Louisiana residents.
- *Program Development:* BFH and CYSHCN engage in continuous quality improvement and seek evidence-based programs to implement or support the work necessary to address Louisiana's identified priority needs. Future efforts will seek to include and engage fathers and fatherhood resources; improve health disparities; and expand opportunities for people to get coverage for health services.